SUPPLEMENT.

UNSCRUPULOUS ADVERTISING.

PERVERSION OF THE U. S. MAILS.

The boldest attempt at deceptive and fraudulent advertising of which we have personal knowledge recently came under our observation.

A gentleman purporting to be the representative of the Robinson Medicine Co., of Topeka, Kansas, called about six weeks ago at the office of the undersigned to lay before them the extraordinary virtues of a certain compound which he affirmed in a period of ten years had not failed to cure every case of diphtheria, tonsilitis, bronchitis, cankered sore throat and mouth, catarrh, hives, eczema, piles, earache, toothache, fresh cuts, burns, galls, scalds, pimples, warts, corns, bunions, syphilitic ulcers, running sores and all kindred diseases.

We were not interested as medical men in his statements. They were illiterate, unscientific, asinine. They were made with such a flagrant disregard of truth that our interest in the historical Ananias and Sapphira soon waned to be supplanted by a greater interest in this latter day monumental liar. History records that Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead for their sins. When this representative of the Robinson Medicine Company, and perhaps the medicine company itself, get their just deserts, we will read of the avenger having dealt similarly with them.

Before the above mentioned representative of the Robinson Medicine Company took leave of the undersigned, he handed each an ounce vial of medicine labeled as follows: "Anti-diphtheria for diphtheria and all throat diseases. Dose—three drops twice a day for two days. Swab to remove membrane. Never shake the bottle. Price $2.50 per ounce."

These bottles are yet in our possession with seals unbroken just as they were given us. The statement that we endorse and recommend these remedies is absolutely false. We know nothing of their component parts or effects, consequently could not use or endorse them. We have faith, however, in their utter ineficiency in curing the diseases named, and the educated physician who would add such compounds to his armanentarium must indeed be weak and gullable.

We make these statements for the reason that the Robinson Medicine Company has been using the United States mails to distribute cards and letters to physicians, druggists, and laymen that upon the face of them contain fraudulent representations. The card referred to is inscribed on the back as follows: "Endorsed and recommended by the following physicians: F. C. Herr, Ottawa; A. Haggart, Ottawa." Other names appear upon the back of this card, all strangers to us. So far as the undersigned are concerned, the use of their names on this card is wholly without authority or justification. They have never tried the remedies, hence, could not endorse them. The Robinson Medicine Company never consulted them about the use of their names in this or any other way. The methods of business of this company are clearly not honest; they are essentially dishonest. The god Mammon appears to rule in the house of the Robinson's. Any methods that will sell their wares and bring money to their coffers is justifiable in their sight.

At the same time that the Robinson Medicine Company mailed to physicians and others over the state cards and letters with the endorsement above noted, they sent to the undersigned the following letter:

"Dear Sir:—"As I left you a bottle of our anti-diphtheria some weeks ago and hoping you have had occasion to test the merit of the same I have referred other physicians to you and hope you will do us the kindness to give them the physiological action as you understand it. If however you have not yet tested its merits and do not care to have us refer physicians to you will you kindly notify us at once and oblige

ROBINSON MEDICINE COMPANY.

P. S.—Write for samples of higher and more powerful potencies free to physicians."

Meanwhile, the Robinson Medicine Company endeavored to place their wares with a reputable druggist in Ottawa. Failing in a measure to so place them, the next step in this questionable business was to send the following letter to the druggist:

"Gentlemen:—Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to each of your doctors and physicians and we thank you very much for so kindly sending them to us. Drs. V. E. Lawrence, A. Haggart, C. W. Hardy and Dr. Herr are already using our preparation, the anti-diphtheria. Wishing you success and followed by large orders, we remain, Yours truly,

ROBINSON MEDICINE CO."

Now it will be observed that the letters addressed to the undersigned asking them to inform the Robinson Medicine Company whether or not they would permit the use of their names in endorse-

ment of these remedies might relieve the Robinson Medicine Company of any blame or responsibility for wrong doing were it not for the fact that in the same mail they sent out to professional and lay people cards and letters containing the endorsements. This conduct upon the face of it, was a deliberate attempt to hoodwink not only the profession but lay people as well. The Robinson Medicine Company is a stranger to us. We do not know anything respecting their qualifications as business or professional men. This we do know, however, their business methods are highly reprehensible. They are out for the almighty dollar; their use of the United States mails, if not fraudulent, certainly borders upon fraud and we shall ascertain at once how far such a concern may go with impunity in such methods of business.

The cards purporting to contain the endorsement of the undersigned are presented by D. S. Kelly, Emporia, Kansas. Mr. Kelly, purports to be an ex-professor of biology in the Kansas State Normal: It goes without saying that Professor (?) Kelly as a biological teacher must be a purely negative force, otherwise he would not be hypodroming the country with these secret nostrums. Here again the Robinson Medicine Company is attempting to get in some fine work and as the cap-sheaf to this nefarious business Mrs. Kelly (poor soul) is run into the list of celebrities. She represents herself as the national organizer of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions. God save the helpless ones from such representatives! "Woman's best friend" is her hobby. Its talismanic name is Oriola; blessed Oriola! Behold what it cures! "Female weaknesses, falling of the womb, leucorrhœa, gonorrhœa, ulceration of the neck and body of the womb. Intrauterine tumors in first stages, catarrh of the bladder and womb and adjacent organs, painful or irregular menstruation, prolapsus, dismenorrhea, vulvitus, vaginitis, hemorrhage, etc. It removes offensive seretions and is beneficial in "change of life."

In addition to this extraordinary list of diseases that Mrs. Kelly's Oriola, Woman's Best Friend, will cure, either Mrs. Kelly or the Robinson Medicine Company with becoming modesty adds these: Nausea, pain in the limbs, bearing down sensation in the back and across the lower part of the abdomen, sick headache; palpitation of the heart, loss of apetite, despondency, etc., all of which are corrected and cured by Oriola. We presume the "etc." here has reference to every disease that flesh is heir to.

In conclusion, we wish to state that the Robinson Medicine Company either takes the doctors of Kansas without exception for an army of fools or they are fools themselves.

Since writing the above the undersigned has had communications from the following medical men: Drs. A. R. Knapp, Burlington, Kans.; D. Suber, Bonner Springs, G. W. Seacat, Cherryvale,; C. E. Harrison, Scranton, Kans.; Light & Light, Chanute, Kans., who affirm that their names were used by the Robinson Medicine Company without their knowledge or consent.

J. C. Herr, M. D.
Ottawa, Kans., Dec. 26, '03 A. Haggart, M. D.

DR. EDWARD P. CHASE, Shawnee, was seriously injured, December 10, by being struck on the head with a scale-weight.

DR. FRANCIS M. THOMAS, Leavenworth, surgeon of the federal prison, has been seriously ill with pulmonary hemorrhages, but is now reported as improving.

THE OFFICE of Dr. Samuel B. Wilson, Olathe, was recently raided, 40 gallons of whiskey seized, and the physician placed under arrest on 13 charges of selling whiskey.

A FIRE occurred at the Leavenworth Hospital, December 7, which destroyed the roof, and damaged the building to the extent of about $3,000. The twenty patients were safely removed.

THE JOURNAL begs to acknowledge the receipt of new advertisements from the ANTI-KAMNIA CO., the PEACOCK CHEMICAL CO., the SULTAN CHEMICAL CO., all of the World's Fair City.

THE SUIT brought by Frank Oldham against Dr. Lewis H. Munn, Topeka, in which the plaintiff alleged malpractice, was dismissed for lack of evidence, before the trial had reached its natural end.

WE WISH to receive a cut or a photograph of every HOSPITAL in the state. It would be a valuable publication that would show the various types, cost of running, etc., of all our Kansas suburban hospitals.

IT IS the business of the secretary of the county society to keep the JOURNAL informed of changes in the membership of the society, and of all other happenings. One unwilling to do this should not accept the office.

GOODLAND HAS about 15 cases of smallpox, and through lack of efficient quarantine, the disease has been carried to Benkelman township, where 16 cases have been reported—Cherokee County reports 7 cases.

"WHEN I WANT some drugs or instruments I go by preference to the firm that advertises in the JOURNAL. I think it nothing more than fair, and hope that my fellow-members of the State Society will do the same."

WE WOULD like to have reports from successful practitioners as to the proportion of professional expenses to professional income; from the dispensing physician we would like to learn the percentage of professional income that goes for drugs and similar supplies.

The Journal of the A. M. A. for December 19, gives a paper and discussion on the very subject brought up by the query on a preceding page of this issue regarding the relation of the specialist and general practitioner. From reading that paper we would think the better way would be for the specialist to consult the family physician about general conditions.